

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /090 W

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R 311410Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1920

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 2671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CG

SUBJECT: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SUSPENDED

REF: A. KINSHASA 984, B. KINSHASA 231

1. UNTZA SECRETARY GENERAL AND POLITICAL COMMISSIONER KIKONGI SPEAKING TO AN ASSEMBLY OF KINSHASA SHOP STEWARDS ON MARCH 27 SAID THAT, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS IN ZAIRIAN FIRMS(PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) WERE SUSPENDED IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON WAGES (REF A) TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK.

2. KIKONGI EXPLAINED THAT, IN CREATING COMMISSION, MOBUTU'S PURPOSE WAS TO REVIEW ENTIRE WAGE STRUCTURE SO AS TO ERADICATE SOCIAL INJUSTICE. COMMISSION COULD SUCCEED ONLY IF WORKERS RECOGNIZED SOUND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN BY PRESIDENT ON THEIR BEHALF

MEASURES SUCH AS STATE OR EMPLOYER-FURNISHED SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND PROVISION FOR WORKER PARTICIPATION IN REVOLUTIONARY MAAGEMENT COMMITTEES (REF B), MEASURES WHICH SHOWED MOBUTU'S CONFIDENCE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKERS. BUT WORKERS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THEY TOO ARE INVOLVED IN

NATIONAL STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS STRUGGLE WHICH WILL TEST WORKER MILITANCY AND UNCONDITIONAL ALLEGIANCE TO THE GUIDE. IT IS NECESSARY, SAID KIKONGI, FOR WORKER TO PUT ASIDE OLD IMAGE OF ZAIRIAN SOCIETY, ADJUST TO NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, INCREASE PRODUCTION, AND REFRAIN FROM MAKING ILL-FOUNDED DEMAND WHICH WILL HINDER COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

COMMENT: KILONGI MADE NO REFERENCE TO FORMAL DECISION EITHER BY GOZ OR UNTZA EXECUTIVE BUREAU. NOR IS IT YET KNOWN WHETHER SUSPENSION WILL APPLY TO BARGAINING IN FOREIGN-OWNED FIRMS COVERED BY INVESTMENT CODE. WHETHER SUSPENSION PRESAGES FINAL DEMISE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING REPLACED BY GOZ-DECREED WAGES, IS UNCLEAR. THIS IS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY HOWEVER. EMBASSY CONTACTS REPORT RECENT INTRA-GOZ CONTEST WITH COMMISSIONER FOR LABOR FAVORING JUST SUCH A COURSE, POLITICAL COMMISSIONER KIKONGI OPPOSED. WHATEVER FINAL RESOLUTION THIS POINT, WAGE COMMISSION UNLIKELY TO RECOMMEND BROAD INCREASE - GIVEN GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, PLUS FACT THAT SINCE DEC 30, 1974 THE STATE'S ROLE AS A MAJOR EMPLOYER HAS, AT LEAST ON PAPER, GROWN ENORMOUSLY.

MEANWHILE, INDEX OF LABOR DISCONTENT MEASURED IN WILDCAT STRIKE ACTIVITY STILL MODEST, BUT RISING.
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